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Is 40 Times the Charm?

You thinking we've made peace in Iran? Think again. Everything's getting ready to collapse on Trump, who's lost all credibility—and is desperate. If the Strait stays closed through summer, the global economy fails. No longer will we be able deplete our oil/ammo reserves and make it appear things are okay. Things are much closer to the precise than okay.

These days Russian spokespersons don't hold back from saying WW3 has already begun. And that this war likely provokes a nuclear confrontation that Russia will win. How they interpret that to be the likely future is both thought-provoking and frightening.

Russia knows it has to bring an end to the Ukraine War, and it has to be this year. Putin's incremental war, though effective, emboldens a hapless Ukraine and a hapless Europe. To the point that the EU sees Russian threats of employing nuclear weapons as just another weak Russian bluff. But it's not—Russia sees the likelihood of a limited nuclear exchange from which it will emerge the winner based on a single assumption:

When Russia, using hypersonic missiles, goes after NATO nations responsible for aiding and abetting Ukrainian attacks deep into Russia, Russia expects that the EU will retaliate with conventional warfare. Russia plans a response with a few well-placed nuclear weapons against the EU.

And, for that, Russia doesn't expect reciprocity.

Russia assumes the US will stay out of it, leaving an impotent EU to take on Russia. And, if the Russian assumption is correct, the EU will back-off, and the security arrangement Russia has fought for these past four years will have been achieved.

Is Russia's assumption correct? It probably is but it's a hell of a gamble. Some, reading this will think I've lost my mind—but have I? After the Russian elections this September, where Putin will maintain his base, he will then accede to his advisors who favor doing what needs to be done to achieve security and to get this Ukraine thing over with.

There's a wild card in the mix—Donald Trump. The Russians assume Trump will be unwilling to trade Boston for Rostov, and in that surmise they are probably correct. Losing the Iranian war, and incapable of taking-on China, does Trump want a war with Russia?

Trump already has a full agenda. He has anticipated peace with Iran—39 times. But each time Iran reiterates its original demands, Trump goes off. And worse than Trump is Netanyahu who insists Iran gets rid of all fissionable material, ends its alliances with resistance to Israel, and curtail missile production. This is roughly the same terms as a young girl giving up her knife to a serial killer for a promise of safety.

Iran's position has not changed. It will not give its nuclear material to the US. It will not give over control of the Strait of Hormuz. It requires its frozen assets be returned before a cease fire. It will not allow US bases in the region. Any cease fire will have to include Lebanon, and Iran will continue alliances intended to end US/Israeli regional hegemony.

It's difficult to point to who/what is the most useless in this mix. The gulf monarchies are secretly negotiating with Iran so as not to be attacked.

Pakistan wants to be the arbiter of peace, but their leader is also the guy who has his predecessor locked-up over a lack of support for the US. Kushner (who we hoped we were done with), and his sidekick Witkoff, are back, without diplomatic credentials—but with totally squandered credibility.

Every since the balance of power shifted in Iran's favor, US neocons, Graham, Kellogg, Levin (what rock did he crawl out from under), without a vestige of meaningful military experience, are insisting we replicate WW2 and let them know who's boss. Couple of problems with that: The US Navy/Air Force can't get close to Iran to inflict damage, and for WW2, we brought an army of millions, not today's half a million.

Trump seems able to steer the markets through rumor—but only for now. Americans wake up and check retirement accounts, while other Americans try to sell their homes only to find it's a buyer's market except for one thing—buyers can't qualify for a loan until prices drop.

But for Trump who says the price of gas doesn't matter when compared to stopping Iran from getting a nuclear weapon that until now they never wanted—the midterms loom. It's June—November comes before we know it. If the straight of Hormuz remains closed, another 2 months, Trumps legacy might be Netanyahu's—looking at jail time.

If we wake up tomorrow to peace in Iran, given Netanyahu's needs and Trump needing some kind of a victory that outmatches anything Obama got, that would truly be a miracle. I would even be okay with him getting one of those phony Nobel Peace Prizes. Anything to make the children happy. But, what is more likely than meaningful peace with Iran?

When it comes clear that Iran is intransigent, Donald may have to do something—other than admit defeat and walk away. What it is I don't know, but from what I see it will not be a military win. With neocons apoplectic

about taking Kharge Island, we may yet see boots on Iranian ground. But, unless Iran is out of dry powder—that will end in bodybags.

Around the Middle East debacle, there's interesting speculation/explanations from pundits concerning gold and silver action. We have Michael Oliver ready for \$300 silver (he's a bright guy). We have David Morgan thinking that silver could head back towards \$35, and if that is to be the case, he's advising his subscribers who need cash to take some profits. Pundits are all over the map, causing me to admit that all I know is that they don't know.

What we do know is that markets are so dumb they fall for Trump's 39 peace plans as reasons, without any serious questioning, to buy the dip in whatever. So far, Trump has been able to affect markets in the direction he wants. But for how long? The US is like Lake Mead, losing water to the drought every day, putting at risk a phony neon Vegas/US gambling Mecca.

Americans who stack gold/silver add up to maybe 20% of what it was when metals were in vogue. Such that, an uninformed public that knows nothing about sound money, are subject to manipulation just as the dollar/stocks are nudged along by Trump's rhetoric. Gold/silver are unimportant when peace is breaking-out 39 times, with the Straight to be opening soon.

My next article asks a question: Why is it that I find myself at odds with long-time Christian readers, mostly Zionist Trump folks, who think God gave Jews the Middle East? Are they betting on the wrong horse? Are there historical facts to support my question and my title: *God's Not On Your Side?*

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